

## Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 008292

R 011209Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1743

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LODNON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T TEHRAN 5067

EXDIS

NOFORN

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MU, YS, IR, UK, JO

SUBJ: REFLECTIONS ON THE WAR IN DHOFAR

REF: MUSCAT 585

1. WE FEEL THAT PARA 2. C. OF REFTEL OVERSTATES POSSIBILITY OF  
IRANIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST PDRY. EXCEPTING CASE OF HOT PURSUIT,  
THERE SEEMS TO US LITTLE CHANCE THAT IRANIAN FORCES WOULD LAUNCH  
ATTACK AGAINST PDRY FROM DHOFAR BASES WITH INTENTION OF OVER-  
THROWING ADEN REGIME.

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2. IRANIAN FORCES ARE OPERATING IN DHOFAR AT SULTAN'S REQUEST AND

IN ORDER TO SERVE IMPORTANT IRANIAN SECURITY INTEREST IN PRE-SERVING A FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE GOVERNMENT ACROSS THE STRAIT OF HORMOZ. A SIGNIFICANT SECONDARY OBJECTIVE IS TO ACQUIRE COMBAT EXPERIENCE FOR IRANIAN FORCES. SHAH HAS MADE CLEAR THAT HE WOULD WITHDRAW HIS FORCES IF ASKED TO DO SO BY OMANIS. WE BELIEVE HE IS EQUALLY SINCERE WHEN HE SAYS HE WOULD WELCOME SUPPORT TO OMAN FROM FRIN SAYDU ARABUA ABD ITGER ARAB STATES. BASED ON EXPERIENCE TO DATE, HE IS PROPERLY DUBIOUS THAT SUCH SUPPORT IN EFFECTIVE MILITARY FORMS WILL BE GRANTED.

3. SINCE LAST JANUARY'S PR CAMPAIGN CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS OF IRANIAN TROOPS, LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN LITTLE NOTICE TO DHOFAR WAR. WITH SIGNING OF IRAN-IRAQ ACCORD, MEDIA HAS SHIFTED EMPHASIS IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS TO DEVELOPING COOPERATION WITH ARAB NEIGHBORS ACROSS THE GULF. IRAN IS INVESTING BOTH POLITICAL AND MATERIAL CAPITAL IN THIS NEW PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH ARABS AND IT WOULD BE TOTALLY INCONSISTENT WITH THAT POSTURE FOR GOI TO LAUNCH A MAJOR ATTACK AGAINST THE PDRY. WE HEAR UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT IRAN HOPES THAT IRAQ, IN CONTEXT OF ACCORD, WILL DIMINISH ITS SUPPORT FOR DHOFARI REBELS. WE BELIEVE THIS DIPLOMATIC TACK IS MORE PROBABLY FUTURE COURSE FOR GOI THAN ROUTE OF SEEKING TOTAL MILITARY VICTORY TO TERMINATE REBELLION,.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, ALTHOUGH IRANIAN FORCES CONDUCT THEIR OWN OPERATIONS IN SEPARATE AREA, THEY ADHERE TO OVERALL LEADERSHIP OF BRITISH COMMANDER OF SULTAN'S FORCES. WE DOUBT THAT IRANIANS WOULD UNDERTAKE SIGNIFICANT OFFENSIVE AGAINST PDRY WITHOUT THOROUGH COORDINATION WITH BRITISH. WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF BRITISH AGREED TO SUCH A CAMPAIGN. FURTHER, AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL, WE DOUBT THAT SHAH HAS SUFFICIENT CONFIDENCE IN HIS FORCES TO LAUNCH THEM ON A MAJOR OFFENSIVE ACTION.

5. TWO FINAL CONSIDERATIONS: IRAN'S ERA OF GOOD FEELINGS TOWARDS THE ARABS IS VERY POPULAR DOMESTICALLY. IT IS ALSO OF HIGH IMPORTANCE FOR GOI IN TERMS OF OPEC NEGOTIATIONS. WE DO NOT SEE IRAN UNDERTAKING ANY ACTION AGAINST PDRY THAT COULD SET BACK OR JEOPARDIZE GAINS ON THE HOME FRONT OR WITHIN OPEC. PDRY IS NOT AN URGENT PROBLEM FOR GOI.

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6. IN CONCLUSION, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT DHOFAR REBELLION IS BEING SUCCESSFULLY HANDLED WITH PRESENT TACTICS AND THAT GOI IS REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH RATE OF PROGRESS. SHAH HAS INDICATED THAT HE SHARES SAUDI/JORDANIAN VIEW THAT BRITS ARE DRAGGING FEET ON WAR AND HE WOULD PROBABLY ACQUIESCE IN MOVE TO END REBELLION BY EFFECTIVE ACTION IN DHOFAR. NEVERTHELESS, WE SEE NO CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT IRANIANS WILL RADICALLY EXPAND THEIR ROLE AND EXTEND FIGHTING TO PDRY TO ACHIEVE AN EARLY MILITARY VICTORY.

HELMS

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